

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. KELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

TREATING PEOPLE LIKE THIS IS A DISGRACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today we learned the joyous news our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCDADE], was found not guilty on all charges against him. JOE was one of the most admired and distinguished Members of this body. He is much beloved by his constituents of his Pennsylvania district. JOE, however, was targeted by a prosecutor looking for a trophy. He wanted to put a trophy of JOE on the wall, he wanted to convict a Congressman, a prosecutor intent on bringing JOE down in order to further his own career.

Well, as time went on it was clear that JOE was innocent. The prosecutor, however, had to double his efforts or admit that he had wasted the taxpayers' time on a questionable, very questionable prosecution.

Today, after over 4 years of brutal attack by an abusive prosecutor, JOE MCDADE was found innocent of all the charges against him. A jury of his peers heard the evidence and decided that they were groundless. Unfortunately JOE's defense cost him his entire life savings. He has been put through a travail that none of us would like to emulate.

Well, we rejoice with JOE, but we also add the fact that he was found innocent, and we stand committed to try to make up at least for the financial loss that he suffered. He has suffered a catastrophe at the hands of an out-of-control prosecutor, a prosecutor gone berserk in order to bring down a public official in order to make himself look good.

And what has the cost been to this man personally, a loyal hardworking public servant who committed his entire life to his country and to his constituents? We will welcome JOE back here joyously after this great victory.

But today something else happened. Today President Clinton announced that he is reneging on his agreement, as stated by his White House spokesman, to sign a bill which would pay for the legal expenses of Billy Dale. This is a bill that passed this House overwhelmingly, to pay the legal expenses of Billy Dale.

Now you may remember who Billy Dale is. Billy Dale was the civil service employee at the White House who ran the travel office. He was fired by the White House early on in order to give basically a relative of the President a

chance to take over that office and to give a Hollywood chum of the President a chance at the contracts to give travel services to the media who cover the White House.

Billy Dale was fired unjustly, and when there was a large protest about this, the President decided, and whoever it was, that they would not just be satisfied with firing Billy Dale, but they would have to file charges against this man, this guy, this ordinary working man who spent all of his life trying to do his duty, had been in the military.

He was there in a bipartisan job in the White House, just a little public servant, somebody, a civil service fellow, and he was fired, and he was then not only fired but prosecuted in order to cover up the wrongdoing and the wrong action that was taken against him.

Well this was something that was again confirmed by the fact that Billy Dale, with all of the prosecutorial power of the Federal Government against him, when it was taken to court it took 2 hours, 2 hours for a jury to find that Billy Dale was innocent of all the charges against him.

Yet, like JOE MCDADE, Billy Dale was not a rich man, and Billy Dale's entire life's savings was destroyed by trying to defend himself against a vindictive President who was trying to cover up his own wrongdoing.

Now, after the President agreed through his spokesman at the White House that he would sign a piece of legislation, legislation that passed overwhelmingly in this body, to make up at least to some small degree the injustice that was given to this man, Billy Dale, who ran the travel office there at the White House, the President now is reneging on that agreement. The President said, "Oh, not until all the legal fees of all the people who were being investigated by this Congress are paid are we going to pay for Billy Dale."

Well let me remind the President, and I guess I cannot speak directly to the President, but let me remind all of you that the President of the United States is talking about people who were not found innocent of crimes, or are being investigated, versus Billy Dale who was found totally innocent of all the charges against him. This is an absolute travesty.

President Clinton must stand by his word. Through his spokesman, he committed to sign the bill that would pay Billy Dale's legal expenses and make up for the wrongdoing that his administration was involved in in basically relieving Mr. Dale of his job in the first place and then bringing criminal wrongdoing against Mr. Dale to cover up that tactic against this civil servant.

Mr. Clinton has gone too far, he has to keep his agreement with us, and he must keep faith with the values of the American people instead of treating some civil servant like this. It is a disgrace.

WE NEED TO GO FURTHER WITH HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor this evening to clarify and conclude a debate that we had earlier today on the floor of the House. First of all, let me acknowledge that I am grateful in a bipartisan manner that this House and the Senate has passed the Kennedy-Kassebaum legislation.

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There are many aspects of the legislation that we could cite as being positive, and some that we need to have further refinement. But there was a dialog on the floor of the House today that I engaged in with my friend, the gentleman from Iowa, as to my concern of the heavy burdens falling upon our physicians throughout this Nation.

There is no doubt that I am gratified to have been able to support and cosponsor the legislation that was just passed, that allows Americans to have portability with their health insurance, and not to be penalized for pre-existing disease. We need to go further. We need to ensure that all Americans have access to good health care.

At the same time, I am familiar and interact with many aspects of the medical profession: those physicians who practice in rural America and urban America. In fact, I have served on an indigent health task force for the State of Texas, where we were fighting against the closing of rural hospitals throughout that State. One of the problems, of course, was the inability of many of the physicians to be able to practice in those communities because of limited access to insurance that would cover those constituents, and, as well, limited access to viable hospitals.

It is those physicians who practice in inner city America and rural America who have private practices who I am concerned will be heavily burdened with the fraudulent provisions that are so severe in this legislation. We want to get rid of the fraud and abuse and certainly the bad practitioners, but overall, America's physicians take the Hippocratic oath, and all they want to do is to serve their patients.

If you have an office situation that is small and not necessarily computer-processed, and you have an inadvertent staff person who repeats the billing to Medicare or some other service, then you are charged with knowingly and intentionally and recklessly providing this documentation, and are subject to the fraud provisions.

I really think that we have an opportunity, as this bill is signed, to revisit this question and to study this question, to ensure that those physicians who serve our most needy of Americans in rural and urban centers around the Nation are allowed to do their practice, the practice of medicine, and that we